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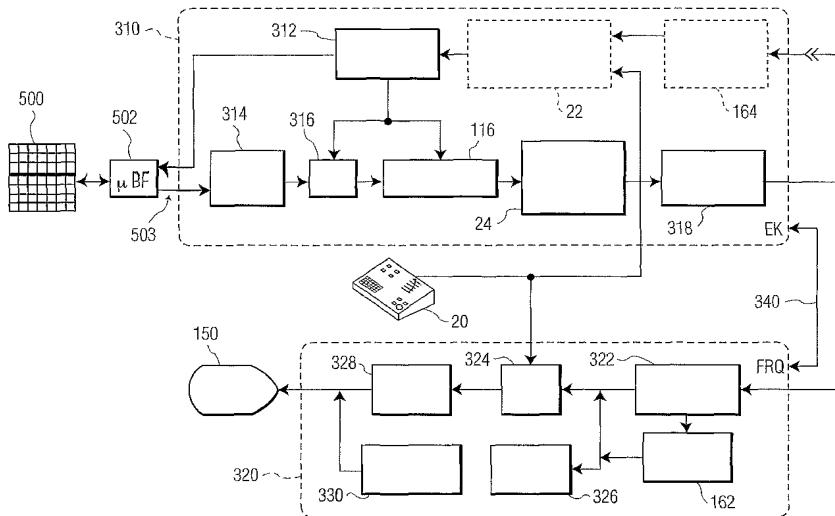
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(54) Title: AUTOMATED MYOCARDIAL CONTRAST ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY



(57) Abstract: A myocardial contrast echo exam is performed by the use of a two dimensional array transducer probe. The probe is held against a selected acoustic window of the body and first and second image planes through the heart are imaged and the plane orientations stored. Settings to optimize the images may also be stored for the two plane orientations. A contrast agent is infused and the resting heart scanned through the acoustic window. Upon actuation of a user control the ultrasound system automatically acquires images of the selected image planes through the acoustic window. Stress is applied to the heart to increase the heart rate and automatic acquisition sequence is repeated to acquire the images with the heart under stress. The at-rest and stress images may be compared to analyze the reperfusion of the myocardium of the heart.

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